

SUSAN TANKSLEY, PHD

Susan Tanksley, Ph.D., is the Biochemistry and Genetics Branch Manager in the Laboratory Services Section of the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Biochemistry and Genetics Branch, which encompasses the state newborn screening and clinical chemistry laboratories. These high-volume testing areas process 4,500-5,000 specimens per day.

Dr. Tanksley's leadership and direction were instrumental in the successful expansion of newborn screening testing and database management from seven to 27 disorders. The expansion was implemented on an aggressive timeline and officially launched in February 2007.

Previously, Dr. Tanksley served as the DNA Diagnosis Team Lead, for the Texas Department of Health/Texas Department of State Health Services. Using her technical expertise, she managed a human genetic testing laboratory and developed new tests to identify mutations causing newborn diseases.

Dr. Tanksley has 14 years of hands-on laboratory testing experience and seven years of newborn screening experience. Dr. Tanksley earned her doctorate in Genetics from Texas A&M University.